

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1 to 23.

Please add new claims 24 to 43.

Claims 1 to 23 (Cancelled)

24. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) an isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide corresponding to amino acids 1 to 449 of SEQ ID NO:2 including the start codon;

(b) an isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide corresponding to amino acids 2 to 449 of SEQ ID NO:2 minus the start codon;

(c) an isolated polynucleotide encoding the HLRRSII polypeptide as encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No: PTA-2676;

(d) an isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having at least 255 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has caspase modulating activity; and

(e) an isolated polynucleotide which represents the complimentary sequence (antisense) of (a), (b), (c), and (d).

25. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said polynucleotide is (a).

26. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 25, wherein said polynucleotide consists of nucleotides 1320 to 2666 of SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said polynucleotide is (b).

28. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said polynucleotide consists of nucleotides 1323 to 2666 of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said polynucleotide is (c).

30. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said polynucleotide is (d).

31. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 31, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 765 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

32. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said polynucleotide is (e).
33. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24.
34. (New) A recombinant host cell comprising the vector sequences of claim 33.
35. (New) A method of making an isolated polypeptide comprising:
- (a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 34 under conditions such that said polypeptide is expressed; and
 - (b) recovering said polypeptide.
36. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24 wherein said nucleic acid sequence further comprises a heterologous nucleic acid sequence.
37. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 36 wherein said heterologous nucleic acid sequence encodes a heterologous polypeptide.
38. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 37 wherein said heterologous polypeptide is the Fc domain of immunoglobulin.
39. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence that is at least 80.0% identical to a polynucleotide sequence provided in claim 24, wherein percent identity is calculated using a CLUSTALW global sequence alignment, and wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that has caspase modulating activity.
40. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 39 wherein said nucleic acid sequence further comprises a heterologous nucleic acid sequence.
41. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 40 wherein said heterologous nucleic acid sequence encodes a heterologous polypeptide.
42. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 41 wherein said heterologous polypeptide is the Fc domain of immunoglobulin.
43. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 39 wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide having a polypeptide sequence that is at least 80.0% identical to the polypeptide sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein percent identity is calculated using a CLUSTALW global sequence alignment, and wherein said polypeptide has caspase modulating activity.